Work Task C7: Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Surveys, Demographic Study, and

**Survey Protocol Evaluation** 

**Point of Contact:** John Swett, LC-2320 (702) 293-8574

Partners: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Northern Arizona University (NAU) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

**Purpose:** Conduct surveys to determine existing yellow-billed cuckoo

(YBCU) populations on BLM lands near Yuma, Arizona, test the proposed survey protocol, and determine habitat requirements to

guide riparian habitat restoration efforts.

**Conservation Measures:** MRM1 and MRM2

**Long-term Goal:** Information obtained from this study will be used to design a

system monitoring program for YBCU. In addition, data collected will enable Reclamation to design restoration sites for YBCU and/or recommend future demographic studies necessary to further

understand YBCU populations along the LCR.

**FY05 Estimate:** Estimated FY05 cost associated with the Intra-agency Agreement

to conduct this study are approximately \$51,000 including field

support and quality assessment.

**Project Description:** Reclamation and the BLM have entered into an Inter-agency

Agreement (IA) to provide funding to Northern Arizona University (NAU) to conduct presence/absence surveys for YBCU in selected areas near Yuma, Arizona, determine breeding habitat selection and preference, identify requirements for breeding and migration stopover habitats, and evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed survey protocol. This study will provide a standardized survey protocol for YBCU for future system monitoring efforts during the LCR MSCP and will determine habitat requirements necessary to

restore riparian habitat for YBCU breeding sites.

**Accomplishments** 

to date: The IA between Reclamation and BLM is being finalized. BLM

and NAU will be finalizing their agreement once this IA is signed.